National Corporation of Small Scale Industries for export of aluminium wares;

(c) the names of the countries to whom the said export is likely to be made; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of aluminium wares during 1997-98.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The total quantity of Aluminium wares exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years is given below :

(Quantity in KG)

	(Foreign Exchange equivalent in Rupees crores)	
Year	Quantity	Value
1993-94	2218428	35.81
1994-95	2504016	42.13
1995-96	2892323	46.31
1996-97 (April-August '96)	1735970	18.17

(b) The countries to which exports have been made by the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., are U.K. Australia, Holland and Portugal.

(c) The Countries to which exports of aluminimum are likely to be made by the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., are Germany and Middle East.

(d) Promotion of exports has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Measures taken to boost exports of engineering goods including aluminium wares, consist of various incentives under the Export-Import Policy like Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Special Import Licence, Duty Drawback Scheme, exemption under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act and assistance from Market Development Fund.

[Translation]

Bank Branches in U.P.

4289. SHRI BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present number of banks in Uttar Pradesh Particularly in Azamgarh district are not sufficient to meet the requirements of the people of rural areas;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to open more branches of bank; and

(c) the time by which new bank branches are likely to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) As per the extant Branch Licencing Policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the decision to open branches is left to the judgement of the individual banks. Proposals for opening rural branches in the service area of applicant banks, duly recommended by the concerned State Governments are considered by RBI.

As on tthe last Friday of March 1996, there were 8670 branches of scheduled commercial banks in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The RBI have reported tthat the following allotments for opening branches in Uttar Pradesh have been made during the last two years i.e. 1995-96 and 1996-97 :

Rural	–	10
Semi Urban	–	37
Urban	–	35
Metro	–	8

This includes one semi-urban branch allotted for District Azamgarh.

(c) RBI have also reported that after allotments for opening of branches are made, banks are required to obtain licences on completion of all infrastructural arrangments. The new branches may be opened generally within two to three years.

Model Code for Concluding Contract

4290. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any model code of purchase has been framed and is applicable/binding on all Ministries/ Departments while concluding contract and arranging supplies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether officers posted in various Minitries/ Departments after decentralisation of DGS&D have been directed to follow purchase policy framed by his Ministry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE\E (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and

(b) The basic principles governing Government purchases are laid down in the General Finance Rules (GFRs). No model code of purchase has been framed which is applicable/binding on all Ministries/Deparment.

(c) and (e) Various Central Government Ministries/ Departments may have evolved their own purchase procedures keeping in view the aforesaid provisions of GFRs. Officers of DGS&D transferred to these Ministries/ Departments consequent upon decentralisation of purchases would thus have to follow the purchase procedure adopted by the concerned Ministry/Department.

Pending Appeals before Incom Tax Tribunals

4291. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of appeals pending before the Income Tax Tribunals as on December 31, 1996;

(b) whether the Government are constituting more Tribunals and appointing Additional Members;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) other steps taken for expeditious disposal of pending cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) the number of appeals pending before the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal as on 31st December, 1996 was 2,99,334.

(b) and (c) Government has recently decided to establish 15 new benches of the Tribunal at the following places :

Name of Station	No. of benches
1. Rajkot	1
2. Agra	1
3. Bangalore	2
4. Mumbai	5
5. Chandigarh	1
6. New Delhi.	2
7. Jodhpur	1
8. Panaji	1
9. Vishakhapatnam	1

(d) Does not arise.

(e) More members have been conferred single member powers for hearing appeals. Members are sent on tours to stations where either the pendency is more or the regular Benches are not functioning. Grouping of appeals involving common issues for hearing, scrutiny of cases covered by earlier judgements for quick disposal and arranging camp courts at various places are some of the other steps taken for quick disposal of pending cases.

Export of Agarbathi

4292. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of agarbathi exported during 1996-97;

(b) whether the Government are aware that due to non-availability of bamboo splits for agarbathi industry it is difficult to achieve the estimated export from Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of agarbathi;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) As per data available with DGCI&S, the total value of export of agarbathi during April-December, 1996 is Rs. 56.36 crores.

(b) and (c) the matter was represented before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Hon'ble Court in their order dated 4.3.97 have clarified that their directions dated 12.12.96 imposing a ban on felling of trees are not applicable to minor forest produce including bamboo. This is likely to improve the availability of bamboo for agarbathi industry.

Losses in Public Sector and Rural Banks

4293. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of rural and semi-urban branches of the public sector banks that are running into losses and how does that compare with the branches of private sector banks running into these very rural and semi-urban areas, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : The number of rural and semi-urban branches of the public sector banks and private sector banks running into losses during the last two years i.e., 1994-95 and 1995-96, as reported by Reserve Bank of India, is given below :